



Shadow Volunteer

New Forest Permissions Team role

Lyndhurst

Country	England
Location	The New Forest The Queen's House, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NH
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	10 th July 2022

Background Information

Forestry England are the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

South Forest District manages 46,000ha of land across West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and South Wiltshire. The District is at the hub of some of the most highly populated parts of the country and the nation's forests here deliver a significant range of public benefits from a diverse range of places and activities. Over 60% of our land is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and over 70% of our land lies within protected landscapes - National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We therefore manage some nationally-prized places which are a unique blend of forest and rare open habitats. We host over 20 million day visits to our forests every year and local communities have a strong connection with our forests; delivering multi-purpose objectives across these heavily designated and heavily used landscapes has it challenges, but we have an inspired team who take great satisfaction in delivering high quality land management and memorable experiences for our visitors.

Each year we receive over 3,000 applications for permits to carry out events and activities. Working in such sensitive and highly designated landscapes means a robust process must be followed in order to protect the special qualities of areas such as the New Forest. By working closely with organisers to minimise any possible impact we have been able to permit around 1,200 organised events and

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activities, involving over 40,000 people, each year. These range from individual scientific studies to large participation events.

By law, any event or group activity planned to take place on the Forest requires formal permission from Forestry England, as the landowner, before taking place. We are legally required to assess each activity using a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to ensure that it will not cause any significant harm or impact on protected habitats and wildlife.

It is our aim to find a way to meet the legal requirements to protect the New Forest's critically important habitats and species while at the same time supporting the health and well-being benefits that organised recreational activities can provide to people.

We are proud to be able to offer shadow volunteer opportunities for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in recreation management, conservation, community engagement, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

The Role

We have 1 Shadow Volunteer position available in the South Forest District Permissions Team and this is based at Lyndhurst in the New Forest.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing the current permissions team. They will shadow staff and develop on the job skills, including establishing and maintaining relationships with permit holders and stakeholders, administrative tasks and effective communication skills both verbally and written, understanding and knowledge of working in a protected landscape, engaging and working with the public, delivering targeted conservation campaigns in collaboration with partner agencies. The New Forest Shadow volunteer positions enable individuals to gain experience of managing recreation in a protected landscape and promoting conservation of a diverse range of habitats and species through management of permitted events and activities.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from the experienced member of staff being shadowed, along with gaining knowledge from wider colleagues.
- Guidance and support in applying for further training or employment opportunities.
- Genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.
- Volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.
- Volunteer uniform.
- Formal training opportunities - first aid and manual handling.

Purpose

Working as part of the team to deliver key Forestry England messages and conserve protected landscapes by processing permit applications and monitoring HRA compliance. Experience the range of tasks, activities and procedures that the permissions team undertake daily within their role, learn how to connect the community with their local forest, empowering visitors and locals alike to contribute to the conservation of protected habitats and species.

This role would suit someone with an interest in conservation seeking a career in the environmental sector, business administration, visitor services, countryside ranger, community work, environmental or outdoor education.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

An interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, or recreation.

Desirable

Experience of taking part in or managing an environmental, educational or community project or activity through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in the environmental sector; countryside ranger, environmental or visitor services management.

Work with Other People

Essential

Be approachable, open, polite, and helpful to others.

Respect diverse backgrounds, views, and approaches.

Willingness to work as part of a team as well as the ability to work on your own.

Desirable

Willingness and enthusiastic to lead groups and activities.

Communication

Essential

Ability to listen and communicate with people from a variety of age groups, abilities, behaviours, and backgrounds.

Desirable

Ability to deal with difficult situations with tact, diplomacy and in a constructive manner.

Deliver Results

Essential

Motivated and capable of working under own initiative.

Prioritise and organise your time and resources effectively to meet agreed deadlines and objectives.

Desirable

Able to deliver a result for others or personal goal

Learn and Apply

Essential

Listen to and observe your mentor and rest of the team, demonstrate willing to learn and repeat tasks to build experience.

Be open to change and show a willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop new skills and confidence.

Desirable

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes, and constructive feedback and apply what you have learnt

Other

Able and willing to work 1-3 days per week, predominantly weekdays although may occasionally include evenings and weekend working.

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This post may require you to hold and continue to hold, a full current driving licence. Duties will require you to be fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. However, Forestry England is willing to consider any proposal put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the role by other means. This role will require a DBS check.

How to apply

To apply for this Shadow Ranger opportunity please complete the online [Shadow Volunteer application form](#). Answer the questions on the form and explain how your skills, interests and experiences meet all the areas outlined in this Person Specification. Please use **examples** where appropriate, without detail we cannot see how you meet the role specification.

Specify you are applying for **New Forest Permissions Team shadow volunteer role**.

If you are unable to use our online application or need an alternative application method please email victoria.tofte@forestryengland.uk and state which opportunity you wish to apply for and what your requirements are to enable you to apply.

Key dates

Application closing date: 10th July 2022

Interviews from 15th of August 2022

Induction 5th of September 2022